

R. H. YANCEY, Editor.

Clarksville, Tenn., Feb. 23, 1884.

TUESDAY IN ADVANCE.

We favor a tariff for revenue limited to the necessities of the Government economically administered, and so adjusted in its application as to prevent unequal burdens, to encourage productive industries at home, afford a just compensation to labor, but not to create or foster monopolies.—Ohio Democratic Platform, June 21st.—Virginia Democratic Platform, July 25th.—Substantially, Pennsylvania Democratic Platform, Aug. 1st.

We favor a tariff for revenue, limited to the necessary expenditures of the Government, and so adjusted as to give protection and encouragement to home production, industry and labor, without producing or fostering monopolies.—New Jersey Democratic Platform, Sept. 12th.

HARMONY MUST PREVAIL.

The time is approaching when delegates from Tennessee to the National Democratic Convention must be chosen. The matter is already being discussed by the newspapers and the factional tone assumed by some of these organs is not conducive to that harmony that should prevail within the party ranks. Papers of free trade proclivities are beginning to sound an alarm and to notify the "dear people," of the whole intendency they claim to be the sole custodians, that the "protectionists" are getting up a scheme to capture the delegation. Other newspapers that entertain contrary views on the tariff issue are urging that delegates of their way of thinking be chosen, and between the two a pretty row is apt to be stirred up that will make good the claim of the Republicans that they have a chance to carry the State in the next election.

These bickerings are not to be attributed so much to honest differences of opinion as to the desire of certain papers and politicians to keep alive the strife in the party on which they have heretofore fattened. The State debt is not likely to cut any figure in the election (we sincerely hope not, any way), and the demagogues must find some way to keep themselves before the public. The Democratic masses in Tennessee, as they are all over the country, are for harmony and party unity and they must see to it that these fine brands are suppressed.

We hope that the convention called to nominate delegates to the National convention will not consider the tariff question. It can do no possible good and may result in a great deal of harm. There are many true and tried Democrats in every Congressional district in the State whose party loyalty cannot be questioned, men of ability in whose hands the interest of the party and the people can be trusted with impunity. Such men should be sent as delegates to the National convention without any regard for their tariff views. This course has been pursued heretofore and there is no reason why it should not be the present policy.

It is safe to predict that the National Democracy will declare in favor of tariff reform and revision, with a due regard to the interest of such industries as need protection. Such a platform affords the only assurance of success, and the convention will not be so unwise as to adopt any other. That, however, is simply the opinion of the CHRONICLE; other Democratic journals may look for a different expression and one more consistent with their own views on the subject. It is our present intention to urge that no paper attempt to place representatives of its own views on the Tennessee Delegation that goes to the National Convention and above all that no row be raised in the State convention that nominates these delegates. Whatever tariff plank the National Convention may promulgate, the CHRONICLE will support the ticket it puts in the field and all Democratic papers in Tennessee will do the same thing. There is no use in weakening the party with untimely dissensions.

Iron is found in forty-four of the ninety-seven counties in Tennessee and the ore exists in such large quantities that it is practically inexhaustible. The development of this immense source of wealth will make Tennessee one of the chief manufacturing States of the Union, and that will increase the average price of her lands from their present low rate to at least \$50 per acre, the average price of land in Pennsylvania and other manufacturing States. This promised prosperity will all be nipped in the bud if Morrison's tariff bill passes, placing iron ore on the free list. Such a law will play into the hands of the iron manufacturers, for the mills there can run with greater profit than they do now on the cheap imported ores, while the articles they manufacture are protected. They can run and defy the competition of struggling enterprises in the South that depend on the mining resources of their own section. With a duty on imported ore iron can be made in the South cheaper than in the East and that is why the East wants raw material placed on the free list. The interest of the South is uppermost with us and we especially desire the prosperity of Tennessee. We wish to see our State and its people grow rich and we protest against the enactment of a law that will snatch away this prospect of wealth. A duty on iron ore should be sustained.

The Nashville Banner used the expression "had not went" in its Monday edition. We suppose our afternoon contemporary wished to give the Lebanon Herald a show for its white ally. No other charitable construction can be put on such an outrageous murder of the Queen's English.

CASEY YOUNG declines the interview recently impudently to him. He says "I am opposed to the Morrison bill though I shall, of course, set with the Democratic party."

IN AND ABOUT THE CITY OF MEXICO.

By H. VANCEY.

To the CHRONICLE:

It is difficult to write anything definite and positive concerning the Government of Mexico. The present Government, *La Republica Mexicana*, has endured longer than any of its predecessors since the times of the Montezumas and the pure Aztecs. But of the present Government it may be said, as of Bret Hart's "Heathen Chinee" for ways that are dark, and tricks that are vain, it is remarkably peculiar. It may not be worse than other governments, and probably is not; but their faults are more apparent, and their tricks are practiced more openly. In the United States some scandal attaches to disgraceful exposures of great men; and as the phrase goes, "dark things are whispered of men high in authority." But in Mexico these dark things are told in a matter-of-fact way, and are taken as a matter-of-course. Perhaps being bribed is not very much of a disgrace, after all. But you cannot bribe a Mexican, if he be above the lowest level. No! His honor proudly rejects the hint of such a thing. He will accept a present, however.

This recalls a story I heard told by a prominent American, of the Spanish Governor-General of the Isle of Cuba. An important concession was required. There was plenty of money ready to be used to this end. Upon an attempt at negotiation, however, the noble Spaniard was so indignant at the very suggestion of such a thing, that he looked upon, and the Americans retired in dismay. But an astute negotiator undertook to pass the measure. He made a friendly call upon the Governor-General, was received cordially, talked of the merits of the scheme, and carelessly placed, upon leaving, a certificate for a large sum of money under the paper-weight on the table at which they were sitting. *Satis est!* The concession was granted a few days later.

The Spaniards have ruined Cuba, and the breed resulting from the cross between Spaniard and Aztec is what has been the curse of Mexico. In every branch of the Government, everywhere, is nothing but corruption. Appointments to civil service positions can be easily secured with a little money. In the post-office, when you carry a letter there to be sent away, you have to pay the amount of postage to the officials in charge, and they affix the stamp. They do so sometimes. It is by no means certain that a letter posted in Mexico, will ever leave there.

In the departments of Justice, the same condition exists as everywhere else. I will instance a case in point, which I have heard responsible American residents mention as a fact. An engineer or fireman on the Mexican Central Railroad, a Boston corporation, accidentally ran his train into a wagon containing a priest, who was slightly injured; the priests have great influence in Mexico; the church made some threat hostile to the railroad, whereupon the latter had the man arrested and jailed, and as it is an easy thing for any party possessing influence to secure a postponement of trial before the court, the prisoner, an Irishman, and destitute of money or friends, remained in durance vile. He had been in jail a year last spring, awaiting trial; and is probably there still.

And the "insurance vile" never works more truly used than when speaking of a Mexican jail. They execute criminals very seldom in Mexico. This is not humanity, but cruelty. After a man has been in one of their damp, noisome dungeons, with no companions, for a few weeks, Death is his best friend. When they do execute a man, however, it is by shooting him.

In reality, the Government of Mexico is not another name for General Porfirio Diaz, the demagogue of the republic. He is, in effect, supreme Dictator all through the republic, though at present occupying only the unassuming position of Governor of Oajaca, his native state. This man is certainly an example of true force of character. Born in Oajaca in 1832, a poor, ignorant Mexican Indian he remained until manhood, when he engaged in the many revolutions and wars which have convulsed Mexico, and then, as a one-carpet, blacksmith, dramseller or lawyer, can pursue his avocation without such license. "It would be interesting to know what disposition is made of the vast sums of money thus gleaned, and gleaned from countless other sources; but to this question there is a stereotyped reply in Mexico, consisting of an elevation of the shoulders to an angle of forty-five degrees, a deprecatory spreading out of the hands, and the remark "Quien sabe!" There are certainly not sufficient apparent expenses of Government to warrant their hopeless debts. The navy is not much better than the navy of the United States, being limited to three or four vessels, each loaded down with officials. The standing army, it is true, has been greatly improved, both in drill and physique, in the past few years. It is now a really magnificent lot of men, and the cavalry regiments are well equipped. They may not have the right training, soldierly demeanor, or "the seat of the English Guards"; but they look like a body of dashing, fiery Centaurs. But some of the companies now (as a short while ago) was the case with the whole army) present an almost laughable sight as they march along, all sizes of men indiscriminately mixed, their guns carried at every conceivable angle, some on their shoulders, some hanging along with the rest. To judge from appearance, a good strong Englishman or American could easily lay out a dozen, single-handed; nevertheless, these men will fight, and fight like tigers, sometimes—as the records of Texas, and, later, of the United States will show.

S. T. WYATT.

8th February, 1884.

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